

# MPs often ignore public services: UP chairmen

Union Parishad chairmen yesterday criticized Parliament members, saying MPs from both the ruling and opposition parties have always been busy establishing their political leadership in the respective constituencies ignoring public services, reports UNB.

"Basically, the MPs do not work for the welfare of commonman, they distribute relief among their chosen men and do politics to confirm their seats," the union chiefs blamed un-

## New Editor

From Page 1 Col 8 towards the excellence and high standard of journalism that is represented by The Daily Star," the statement added.

Mahfuz Anam joined the profession of journalism in 1972 with the Bangladesh Observer.

From 1977 to 1990 he worked with the UNESCO in Paris, New York and Bangkok. From 1987, he collaborated closely with S M Ali, then with UNESCO, Kuala Lumpur, in planning The Daily Star which was launched in 1991.

A freedom fighter, Mahfuz Anam is the youngest son of the renowned litterateur, politician and journalist Late Abul Mansur Ahmad.

The Board of Directors of Mediaworld also expressed its "deep appreciation and gratitude for the excellent work done by the team of journalists of The Daily Star" for their work. It also commended the staff of all other departments for their dedication, team-work and commitment.

## Brief biographical note on Anam

Mahfuz Anam, 43, the youngest son of the renowned litterateur, journalist and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad, completed his studies at St. Gregory's High School and Notre Dame College and did his B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. in Economics from Dhaka University.

Anam joined the profession of journalism in March 1972 as an editorial assistant in The Bangladesh Observer. In 1973 he was promoted to the position of a staff correspondent. In 1974 he became the Assistant Editor of the newly launched The Bangladesh Times. In 1976, Anam was awarded the US-based East-West Centre Jefferson Fellowship for working journalists which provided for six months' training with the American media.

In November 1977 Anam joined the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris as a Programme Specialist involved in promoting the growth of mass media in the developing countries. He worked in this capacity upto 1982, when he was promoted and transferred to New York, as the UNESCO media representative to USA, Canada and The United Nations. He also represented the UNESCO in the Special Information Committee and the UN, both of which debated global information issues.

From 1986 to '90, Anam worked as the Bangkok-based UNESCO Media Representative for Asia and the Pacific, covering 31 countries of the region. As the spokesman of the UNESCO Anam travelled extensively and participated in workings of several media organisations.

During his tenure in Asia, Anam worked closely with S. M. Ali, based in UNESCO, Kuala Lumpur, in developing and finalising plans for The Daily Star which they together launched in January 1991, and in which he worked as its Executive Editor.

During his student days Anam was the All Pakistan Inter-University Debating Champion for three consecutive terms in 1968, 69 and 70. In 1970 the then Pakistan government nominated Anam to represent the country at the UN-sponsored Youth Conference in Yugoslavia.

As a student activist Anam participated in the anti-Martial Law movements of the late Sixties for which he was arrested in 1969. He was elected General Secretary of Haji Md. Mohsin Hall in 1970. Anam joined the Liberation War as a Freedom Fighter and was recruited in the second batch of SS Commissioned Officers. After the war, Anam resigned from the regular Army and resumed his studies.

His elder brother Mahfuz Anam is the Editor of The Bangladesh Times. He is married to Shaheen Anam, a former UNHCR official in Bangkok and currently a Programme Officer with the UNDP, Dhaka. They have two daughters.

## Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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imously in the 1st conference of the Bangladesh Union Parishad chairman Samity at the Engineers' Institute.

Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hussain inaugurated the conference with a call for all to build democracy from grass-roots level to give it an institutional shape.

He said the opposition parties have a vital role in a democratic country and no government can take decision avoiding the opposition under the parliamentary democratic system.

Presided over by the Samity Convenor Mir Enayet Hossain Montu, the function was also addressed, among others, by association leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, SM Mosharraf Hossain, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Maya Ranjan Chakma, Abdul Mannan Manu, Gazi Hafizur Rahman, Saidur Rahman Sattar and Mollah Abul Kashem.

Justice Kemaluddin said local decision should be made locally and the local government should be given decision-making power for resolving local issues.

The UP chairmen demanded immediate fulfillment of their 12-point demand, including duty-free motorbike, to ensure rural development and stability in the country.

The demands include execution of the government announcement of UPs as administrative units, increasing honorarium of UP chairmen and members, executive powers for the Thana Coordination Committee and 1st class magistrate status for the UP chairmen.

## Thai Int'l gets its permission

By Staff Correspondent

The tug-of-war between the Thai Airways International and the Ministry of Civil Aviation ended after the Bangladesh authorities yesterday accepted Thai's winter schedule allowing them to operate Bangkok-Dhaka-Dubai flights.

Under the new schedule, Thai International will operate two flights weekly to Dubai, a major transit point in the Middle East where Biman Bangladesh Airlines operates daily flights.

The Bangladesh authorities had earlier withheld permission to Thai International which enjoys fifth freedom in Dhaka just as Biman enjoys similar facilities in Bangkok.

## Foreign Secy

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Asked if Bangladesh had been able to seek the mediation of a third country on the water issue, the Foreign Secretary replied, "Not yet; the mediator has to be acceptable to both countries."

When asked how long Bangladesh would have to wait for an Indian response on the water issue, the Foreign Secretary said, Dhaka was hopeful of an early and fair settlement of the problem.

The Foreign Secretary informed the newsmen that the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers will be held in Dhaka on December 4 and 5. He said meetings of the Programming Committee and the Standing Committee would precede the conference of the SAARC Foreign Ministers.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, who is the current chairman of the Council, will preside over the meeting.

Reaz Rahman also said that a meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) of Bangladesh and India would be held in Dhaka on December 6 and 7. Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee will lead the Indian team to the JEC talks since External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh will be unable to attend due to poor health.

About the situation in Kashmir, the Foreign Secretary said "We have urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and to continue dialogue."

Responding to another question, he said, Dhaka is always concerned about human rights situation everywhere, including Kashmir.

When asked about the siege of the Hazratgah Mosque, Reaz, however, added: "No one can support the use of arms in any place of worship."

Regarding the Bangladesh Prime Minister's proposed trip to the SAARC countries, the Foreign Secretary said, normally this takes place before the closing of the tenureship of SAARC chairmanship, which, he said, Bangladesh will continue to hold till December '94.

He, however, informed that the Prime Minister might visit Nepal, where the SAARC Secretariat is located, sometime at the end of the year.



Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali addressing the second founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi Aijnibi Forum at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday evening. Also seen (from left) are State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq, convener of the Forum Justice T H Khan and Advocate Abdul Wadud Khandaker. — Star photo

## Youth Day

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sent National Youth Awards among the successful youths. She will also open an exhibition, projecting the success and potentials as well as activities of the Department of Youth Development.

Holding of youth rallies, discussions and sessions of voluntary blood donation, film shows on promotional and development activities of the youths and cultural functions of different youth organisations are the other highlights of the five-day programme.

## Transit of Mercury Nov 6

A transit of the planet Mercury over the disc of the sun will occur on November 6 at the time of egress, reports UNB.

The Met Office yesterday said Mercury will cross the disc of the sun as a small black circular spot and will only be visible in Bangladesh with a telescope.

The Met Office requested the people not to try to see the planet's transit with naked eyes.

Mercury will make exterior and interior with the disc of the sun at 9 hours 05.9 minutes BST and 09 hours 11 minutes BST respectively.

At the time of egress the interior and exterior contact will be made at 10 hours 41.4 minutes BST and 10 hours 47.2 minutes BST respectively.



## Fakir Abdul Mannan dead

Fakir Abdul Mannan, a former minister and father of Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah, died yesterday at his residence at 74 Airport Road, Farmgate. He was 92, reports UNB.

He was suffering from old age ailment. The deceased is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers.

After the namaz-e-janaza at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque at 5:30 pm after the Magreb prayers, his body will be kept at his residence and taken today to his village home at Ghaguta in Kapasia thana in Gazipur district for burial at his family graveyard.

Fakir Abdul Mannan was a renowned social worker and veteran Muslim League. He was the chairman of the Dhaka Zilla Board and Member of Parliament. He established a number of educational institutions, mosques and roads.

His two other sons and two daughters are Supreme Court Advocate Abu Nayeem M Rahman, Advocate Anwarul Idris, Mobarak Hossain, Vice President of the American Express Bank, Hong Kong, and Dr Fakir Anjumanaara of the ICCDRB.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night condoled the death of Fakir Abdul Mannan.

## Hearing of charges against Ershad resumes

The hearing of charges against former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad for corruption and misuse of power in reinstating a government servant resumed here yesterday in the court of Divisional Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan, reports BSS.

After hearing both the sides, the judge fixed November 21 for his verdict on the prayer of the prosecution.

# Bill on separation of judiciary in next JS session: Speaker

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali said yesterday that a bill seeking separation of judiciary from the executive would be introduced before the House in its next session, reports BSS.

Addressing a discussion, organised by the Jatiyatabadi Aijnibi Forum in celebration of its second founding anniversary, as the chief guest, the Speaker said independence of judiciary was a precondition to the promotion of democracy.

Held at the Jatiya Press Club with forum convenor Justice T H Khan in the chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by Justice Maksudur Rahman, Advocate Khondker Mahbub Uddin, Advocate Abdul Wahab, Advocate Ahmad Mia, Advocate Fazlur Rahman Talukder, forum leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Fazlur Rahman Khan, member-secretary A Wadud Khondker, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Khorsheed Alam, Sanaulah Mia and Zainal Abedin.

Shaikh Razzak Ali stressed the need for a national consensus to resolve the country's basic national problems. He said democracy could be consolidated only through solution to the basic national issues.

The Speaker said democracy would become meaningless unless economic emancipation of the people could be ensured. He

One gets 17 yrs RI A special tribunal yesterday convicted one Zahuruddin, 24, and sentenced him 17 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 3,500 in default to suffer another 8 months simple imprisonment.

# Energy exploration

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that the net recoverable known gas reserves of 10.64 trillion cubic feet (ft) in the country is projected to be depleted by the year 2010 with an annual increase of demand of 10 per cent.

The rate of gas consumption is rising sharply, he said, and it would be difficult to cope with the increasing demand.

During 1992-93 the daily peak-hour demand for gas was 750 million cft while the production was only 645 million cft. There would not be much of a shortfall in the current fiscal year, he said.

But the projected deficit in gas production would stand at 160 million cft in 1994-95 and would be around 595 million cft in the year 2000 with a total demand for 2010 million cft and production of 1415 million cft per day.

Similarly, the minister noted, there is a shortfall in power generation in the country. Currently there is a deficit of 178 megawatts (mw) against a requirement of 2008 mw while the shortfall would stand at 192mw against a demand of 3983 mw in the year 2000.

To cope with the situation, he said, the government is making alternate arrangements to expand the primary energy sources.

These steps would include extracting coal from the Barapukuria mine along with setting up a 300 mw power plant on the mine head, extracting coal-bed methane gas from the Jaipurhat mine and exploiting the country's peat reserves.

To expand the exploration activities in the country, he added, the government is encouraging private sector participation under the new petroleum policy.

The primary objectives of the petroleum policy include the systematic expansion of exploration activities, uniform policy for both the public and private sectors, strengthening the exploration capabilities of the government agencies and reducing oil imports.

Under the new policy, the import tax on exploration equipment has been waived

# Juba Dal calls hartal in N'ganj town today

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 31: The youth and student wings of the ruling BNP here have called a 6 am to 2 pm hartal in the town tomorrow to protest an armed attack on two Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal (JJD) leaders.

According to witnesses, a group of armed youths today beat up Mohammad Selim and Aslam of the JJD, the BNP's youth front, and shot at Selim near the Chashara rail-crossing at about 3.30 pm.

The JJD leaders were going towards Dhaka by a car. The attackers, armed with guns, knives, hockey sticks and hammers, stopped the car and dragged them out.

Shopkeepers who witnessed the occurrence said a sub-inspector of police, Abdul Bari, was sitting idle on his motorbike parked nearby during the attack.

Selim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injuries while Aslam was admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital.

## Constitution (Amend) Bill Final report in next meet

The select committee on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1991, yesterday decided to approve the final draft report on the bill in its next extended meeting, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in the committee's eleventh meeting held at the Sangsad Bhavan in the afternoon. Salahuddin Yusuf of Awami League presided over the meeting as member-in-charge of the committee, due to illness and absence of its Chairman Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Haifz.

Proposal for amendment of some clauses of the constitution aiming at ensuring independence of the judiciary by separating it from the executive was brought in this private bill by Salahuddin Yusuf MP.

## Chaktai business centre declared strike-free zone

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: The business community of Chaktai, a busy business centre here, declared the area as a hartal and strike-free zone in response to a call given by Industries Minister A M Zahuruddin Khan yesterday, reports BSS.

The announcement was made at a big rally of the members of the business community.

Addressing the rally, the Industries Minister said the development programmes of the government were being obstructed due to politics of strikes and hartals.

## Fellini dead

ROME, Oct 31: Filmmaker Federico Fellini died today, aged 73, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Fellini had been in a coma since suffering heart problems on October 17, reports AFP.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years Italian actress Giulietta Masina, who starred in some of his films.

They were to have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday.

Among Fellini's best-loved films were La Strada and La Dolce Vita.

## Hasina

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"Our new generation must know the correct history of the country's liberation struggle and about its great heroes."

Presided over by poet Sofia Kamal, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Dr S A Malek, Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Justice K M Sobhan, Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Dr Rangalal Sen and Syed Shamsul Haq.

The meeting formed a full-fledged committee of the 'Bangabandhu Gabeshana Kendra' (Bangabandhu Research Centre) to conduct research on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and prepare a correct history of the liberation struggle and the War of Independence.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has been made the Patron of the Centre.

Advisors of the Centre are: Poet Sofia Kamal, Shawkat Osman, Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Justice K M Sobhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Dr Anisuzzaman, Dr Shamsul Huda Harun, Dr Rangalal Sen, Syed Shamsul Haq, Santosh Gupta and Prof Rafiqul Islam.

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The government, he added, would also guarantee to buy all the electricity generated by the private sector.

"As a policy, we have opened the whole power sector for the private sector but as a strategy we are only encouraging power generation by the private sector," he pointed out.

"Phase-wise, the government is also thinking of allowing power distribution by the private sector."

# The Midnight File

## Aided men denounce UN

MOGADISHU, Oct 31: About 2,000 followers of Somali militia leader Mohamed Farrah Aidede took to the streets of Mogadishu today, denouncing the UN ahead of a peace mission by US special envoy Robert Oakley. Members of Aidede's Somali National Alliance (SNA) condemned the world body and its Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as enemies of the broken horn of Africa country, reports Reuter.

## Fierce battle in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Oct 31: Bosnian Croat and Muslim forces fought fierce battles in central Bosnia today, uprooting hundreds of civilians in the Vares area. UN military officers said, Croat troops and the Muslim-led Bosnian army clashed north and west of Vares in central Bosnia and the UN struggled to hold a rising number of displaced villagers, reports Reuter.

# BNP hasn't come to

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their all-out cooperation in meeting their demands.

The people, Begum Zia said, now wanted the construction of roads, bridges, culverts, new schools and supply of electricity.

"Today's politics will be the politics of development and production, and building a bright future for our children," the Prime Minister remarked.

Referring to the newly-introduced food for education programme, the Prime Minister said Taka 89 crore would be spent for this programme which would benefit about seven lakh poor children.

Begum Zia said one lakh people would get employment as teachers in different educational institutions including schools and colleges. She said education was made free of cost for girl students up to class eight outside the pourashabha areas and added

the government had laid emphasis on women education. She said women were being given loan in rural areas to make them self-reliant and this would be expanded gradually.

Underlining the need for utilising every inch of land of the country, she reiterated her call to go for tree plantation, fish cultivation, dairy and poultry farming.

The Prime Minister said import of milk powder had reduced to a great extent and added, from now on the country would import high-breed cows instead of milk.

Begum Zia asked the country's farmers to diversify their crops and said this would help the country reduce imports.

The Prime Minister said her government had reduced the prices of fertilizer and sounded a note of warning against the unscrupulous fertilizer traders.

At the meeting Begum Zia declared Bhuapur a Pourashabha and said that Bhuapur-Madhupur Road would be made pucca gradually.

She also announced upgradation of the Gopalpur Pourashabha to class two from its present class three status and said the Danbari-Gopalpur-Nalin Road would be made pucca.

The Prime Minister distributed poultry birds, cows and goats among the poor and distressed men and women at these meetings.

The Prime Minister visited the Gobindashi Jamuna Bridge embankment at Bhuapur.

## Pirates kidnap 4 fishermen

BARGUNA, Oct 31: Pirates kidnapped four fishermen alongwith their trawlers and other fishing material worth Tk 10 lakh from the Bay of Bengal near Hironpoint Friday midnight, reports UNB.

The gangmen beat another 10 fishermen and threw them into the Bay. They were rescued by fellow fishermen Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, pirates looted goods worth Tk 15 lakh during the last one week in six trawler dacoities.

## MF Hussain

From Page 1 Col 5

MF or just plain Hussain, only recently completed a huge mural at the UN headquarters in New York.

Meanwhile, a number of eminent art critics have already arrived in the city.

Indian art critic Sunit Chakra, Ali imam from Pakistan, Igechi Nakamura from Japan and two critics from Thailand and Nepal are among them. Some 40 international artists and critics will attend the show.

A record number of painters and sculptors from 30 Asian countries, including Bangladesh, will participate in the month-long show organised by the Shilpakala Academy.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the Biennale at the Osmany Memorial Hall at 11 am tomorrow. She will also distribute awards among the prize-winning artists.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum will also be present on the occasion.

## Pak presidency

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PM. Ishaq Khan and Balukh Sher Mazari, who remained caretaker premier briefly after dismissal of Sharif's government in April are apparent nominees of PML-Junejo.

Also figuring on the list are retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, chief of Tehrik-i-Insaf (solidarity movement), Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, head of National Democratic Alliance, and Nawab Akbar Bugti, a Baluchi nationalist and former Governor of Baluchistan Province.

Former Attorney General Yahya Bakhtiar, whose long association with Bhutto was strained early this year, has also filed his nomination papers with the backing of regional political groups in Baluchistan.

Sources in PML said the party's serious candidates were Sajjad and Ayub Khan while indications from the PPP-PML-Junejo coalition mentioned Leghari, Mazari and Ishaq Khan among the frontrunners.

## Jamaat does not use religion for politics: Nizami

RAJSHAHI, Oct 31: The Jamaat-e-Islami secretary General Maulana Mattiur Rahman Nizami, MP, today (Sunday) said his party pursue politics on the basis of religion, but do not use religion to serve political purpose, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Sahab Bazar in the city, the Jamaat leader was critical of those demanding ban on the religion based politics. "In fact, they want to root out Islam from the country."